

STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September
2018

CHILDREN'S ARTISAN SHOW

The Stephentown Historical Society has had the distinct honor and pleasure of hosting several Artisan Shows, featuring local talent, both men and women. On Saturday and Sunday, April 28th and 29th of this year, we were fortunate to be able to showcase the talents of some very gifted local youngsters. While their ages may have varied (from 6 to 15), these young people have one thing in common – they are all home-schooled! While there are advantages to home schooling - when it comes to being able to display their talents with peers, it is not so easy for these kids. So, when approached about a special exhibition just for them, they jumped at it! The array of artwork was fantastic! There were sculptures, paintings, drawings (pencil, charcoal, color), and 2-D relief sculptures – in short, something for everyone. The turnout was fantastic, and a good time was had by all – just check out those smiles



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**Got some
free time?
Why not
volunteer at
the Heritage
Center?!
The "work"
is easy and
very
interesting,
and we sure
could use
the help!
518-733-
6070**

AMAZON SMILE

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2018 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

On June 24th, the Stephentown Historical Society hosted its 37th annual Strawberry Festival. All week long we heard dire forecasts of torrential rain for the big day, but we forged hopefully on with our plans and prayed that things would turn out okay. And did they ever! First thing on that beautiful Friday morning we all met at Gardner's to hull the 200 lbs of berries from PriceRite in Pittsfield (no more picking!). Sunday was a little gray & overcast, but DRY! Showers held off until 3 pm but even that didn't deter last-minute strawberry shortcake lovers – after all, that's what the tent is for! As always, everyone pitched in to make the event a big success. When something needed to be done, someone stepped up to do it. From pitching the tent to hauling the chairs & tables, to packing up & transporting all the supplies, to running back & forth with berries and whipped topping – to spooning up all those beautiful shortcakes and other delicious desserts (pie ala mode for one!). We can't thank our volunteers enough – and a BIG thank you to Neil & Susan Gardner who not only let us use their venue and facilities, but couldn't have been nicer or more accommodating. We SO appreciate it.

By the end of the day, nearly 300 customers had passed through our tent purchasing everything from shortcakes and chocolate covered strawberries to note cards and T-shirts. And let's not forget those strawberry rhubarb pies! It seems we can never have too many – people come early to wait for them to arrive! Thanks so much to all the ladies who baked for us – both the pies and all the homemade biscuits too.

The festival is our main fundraising event and the proceeds help us to maintain the building and to preserve our town's precious records and artifacts. Proceeds also help to defray heating costs and go toward maintenance and upgrades to the building, our monthly programs, and even this newsletter. Thank you for your support – we truly appreciate it!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
September 10 –
at New Lebanon's Heritage Center
200th Anniversary
(Sharon Moon)
October 1 –
Geology of the Rensselaer Plateau
(Mr. & Mrs. Dave DeSimone)
November 11
Stephentown WWI Veterans
(Paul Raider)
AND
Celebration of Historicalth Society's 45 Anniversary
December 2 –
Carry-In Holiday Party
January 6, 2019
USS Slater
(Presenter's Name TBA)

Visit our website!
We're at
www.stephentown-historical.org

TOWN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

*Patricia Flint***This Jay County Hen Had Spur and a Decidedly Lop-Sided Wish Bone**

Jay County is again to the front with a natural curiosity. This time it is a fowl which was part rooster and part hen. The bird was raised and kill for the table by Sam C. Stephens, The Portland Sun describes the circumstances as follows:

“Sam C. Stephen, one of the best known residents of Stephentown, Jefferson township, was a business visitor in Portland. Sam had chicken for dinner Sunday and as evidence of the fact he brought with him the feet and “wish-bone” of the fowl that had given up its life to satisfy the hunger of the Stephen family. Nothing strange usually about the killing of a chicken in Stephentown, but in this particular instance the fowl killed was a decided freak, according to Sam’s version of the affair. It was a fowl that Sam terms “half rooster and half hen”. As proof of the assertion Sam displays the feet of the bird, the right one contained a spur, the left foot contained no spur. With the “wish-bone” the right side was much longer and heavier than the left, giving it a decidedly lop-sided appearance. Because of the freakish growth of the bird Sam says he had roasted rooster for dinner, while his wife devoured the hen. Aside from the freak of nature Sam says to him the chicken presages a democratic victory in the coming November election as the hens are turning into roosters”.

**Historic Marker**

May 20th, 2018 was a special day - it was the day an historic marker was dedicated to the Heritage Center, and we were fortunate to have a special group of speakers help commemorate the moment. Larry Eckhardt, our town supervisor, was on hand, as was Rev. Susan Schultz, former pastor of the Stephentown Federated Church. In addition, we were pleased to welcome Kathy Sheehan from the Rensselaer County Historical Society. All spoke about the building's beginnings and rich history, including its first woman pastor - E.H. Delavan who served the community from 1881 to 1882. In addition, many members of the community were here and shared their own warm and sometimes humorous memories from when the building was the Methodist Episcopal Church. Georgie Beebe gifted us with an original pew purchased from that church many years ago and we were likewise gifted with an original prayer kneeler by Joan Burdick of Hancock, MA.

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